

REMEDATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR April 28, 2004

REGIONAL CONSULTANT DAYS COMING UP!

There is still limited space available for West Central Region's four local Consultant Days, all of which are from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. The sessions will be: May 4 at the DNR Service Center in Eau Claire, 1300 West Clairemont Avenue; May 5 at the DNR Service Center in Baldwin, 890 Spruce Street; May 25 at the UW-Stevens Point University Center, room 207, 1015 Reserve Street; and May 26 at the DNR Service Center in La Crosse, 3550 Mormon Coulee Road. If you plan to attend, please pre-register using the agenda and registration form on the RR Program's internet calendar. If you have questions, please contact Mae Willkom at 715-839-3748, or mae.willkom@dnr.state.wi.us. There is no fee for these sessions.

The RR Program's internet calendar is at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/general/calendar.htm>. South Central Region has also scheduled a Consultant Day on June 3, 2004, at the Lussier Family Heritage Center. The proposed agenda, registration form and a map are on the RR Program's internet calendar. Guest speakers will include Rita Kidd, mayor of Richland Center, who will discuss the multiple brownfield grants the city is using to accomplish its redevelopment goals. The agenda will also include several case closure topics and an update on the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund. Reservations are due May 20th. The fee for the day is \$10, including lunch. If you have questions, please contact Eric Michaels at 608-275-3336, or at Eric.Michaels@dnr.state.wi.us.

GOVERNOR SIGNS DERF LEGISLATION ON EARTH DAY

Governor Doyle has signed legislation changing the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund (DERF) program. The changes were supported by DNR and the WI Fabricare Institute, and include DERF eligibility clarifications, licensing procedures, payment of fees, third-party site discovery costs, and a new deadline for submittal of a potential claims - August 30, 2008. More information is in publication RR- 715 at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR715.pdf>. Background on the DERF Program is at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/dryclean.html>. If you have questions, please contact Robin Schmidt at (608) 267-7569 or at Robin.Schmidt@dnr.state.wi.us.

GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BROWNFIELD INITIATIVES

The governor also signed two brownfield bills on Earth Day, April 22, to promote environmental cleanup and redevelopment in Wisconsin. Act 314 authorizes DNR to enter into an agreement with EPA to create and administer a brownfields revolving loan fund (RLF) program that would distribute grants and loans to local governments. The Wisconsin Brownfield Coalition has applied to EPA for \$4 million to establish a RLF, and DNR expects to learn in June whether EPA will be able to fund the Wisconsin RLF. More information about the Brownfield Coalition's "Ready for Reuse" initiative is at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/brownfields/index.htm>.

The governor also signed Act 315, which gives the state authority to contract with an insurance provider to set up an optional insurance program for environmental cleanups, an initiative that has been recommended by the Brownfields Study Group. This will provide private environmental insurance coverage at a fixed rate with standard protections for property owners and local governments. RR staff have already begun working with the Dept. of Administration Risk Management program and the state's insurance broker to develop the insurance program. More information, including the proposed design of the insurance program, is available in the Wisconsin Brownfields Insurance Program (WBIP) materials under "2004 Study Group" at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/brownfields/bsg/index.htm>.

NEW GROUNDWATER LAW APPLIES TO WATER SUPPLY WELLS

A new law signed by Governor Doyle on Earth Day will require advance notice and fees payable to DNR for proposed new water supply wells. The notice and fees will not apply to groundwater monitoring wells, and will not become effective until DNR develops new administrative rules to implement the law. Currently, less than 2 percent of new wells are inspected due to limited staff. The law authorizes fees of \$50 for private wells and \$500 for high capacity wells. The fees will pay for staff and resources to establish a new well

tracking and inspection program. Statewide water use has risen 33 percent over the past 15 years, and water tables are dropping in many areas -- 450 feet around Milwaukee and Waukesha, more than 300 feet in the Green Bay area, and about 60 feet in Dane County. In some areas the dropping water table is releasing naturally-occurring radium and arsenic into drinking water. For more information, contact Jill Jonas, DNR Drinking and Groundwater bureau director, at 608-267-7545.

WHAT'S NEW?

Don't forget to visit our RR Program What's New page on a regular basis to keep up with changes in the Remediation and Redevelopment Program.

http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/general/whats_new.htm

SOME GIS FEES GOING ASTRAY

Keep your case closure request on schedule by sending your GIS Registry fees to the right DNR office. Always send fees for adding a closed remediation site to the GIS Registry to the program assistant in DNR regional office where the site is located. Some GIS fees have been mailed to other agencies (Commerce, DATCP) that are overseeing a cleanup, but only DNR's RR Program can enter a site onto the GIS Registry, and only DNR can accept the fees. We've also found some GIS fees mailed to the RR's central office in Madison, and some mailed to DNR's Bureau for Enterprise Information Technology and Applications (BEITA). The employees in BEITA are DNR's computer geeks -- don't send them your money! Seriously, in addition to delaying case closure, checks mailed to the wrong place run the risk of getting lost altogether. After DNR receives a GIS payment, we make an entry in the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS), <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/brrts/index.htm>, to confirm payment, and other agencies check this to confirm that payment has been made before they complete their case closure review. To find fee information in BRRTS on the Web, look in the table of "Actions Performed during this DNR Activity" for the action titled "Date Registry Fee Received." Please remember to do the following:

- Make the check payable to "Wisconsin DNR".
- When technical oversight is with a different agency, attach a copy of the first page of the closure request form to the check to help us identify the appropriate site.
- Include the site name and the BRRTS identification number in the "memo" line of the check.

The GIS Registry is at <http://gomapout.dnr.state.wi.us/org/at/et/geo/gwur/index.htm>.

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<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/general/listserv.html>